



**ALEX PADILLA** | SECRETARY OF STATE | STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
ELECTIONS DIVISION

1500 11<sup>th</sup> Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814 | **Tel** 916.657.2166 | **Fax** 916.653.3214 | [www.sos.ca.gov](http://www.sos.ca.gov)

July 7, 2017

County Clerk/Registrar of Voters (CC/ROV) Memorandum #17054

**TO:** All County Clerks/Registrars of Voters

**FROM:** /s/ Jon Ivy  
Voter Access Coordinator

**RE:** Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee: July 19, 2017, Meeting

Attached is the notice and agenda for the next Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC) meeting to be held on Wednesday, July 19, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Boardroom of the Secretary of State, 1500 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.

County elections officials and members of the public are welcome to attend either in person or by calling in to the conference number listed on the agenda.

This notice and agenda will also be available on the VAAC website at:  
<http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/vaac>.

Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions at (916) 695-1581 or  
[Jonathan.Ivy@sos.ca.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Ivy@sos.ca.gov).

Thank you.



**ALEX PADILLA** | SECRETARY OF STATE | STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
ELECTIONS DIVISION

1500 11<sup>th</sup> Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814 | **Tel** 916.657.2166 | **Fax** 916.653.3214 | [www.sos.ca.gov](http://www.sos.ca.gov)

July 7, 2017

**Public Meeting Notice and Agenda**

Voting Accessibility  
Advisory Committee  
(VAAC)

<http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/vaac/>

Date and time: Wednesday, July 19, 2017  
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Conference call number: (877) 443-3042

Screenshare/webstream: <http://uberconference.com/voters>

Location: Secretary of State  
2nd Floor Boardroom  
1500 11th Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Teleconference sites: Los Angeles County Clerk/Recorder  
12400 Imperial Highway, Suite 7001  
Norwalk, CA 90605

Independent Living Resource Center  
423 West Victoria Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Riverside County Registrar of Voters  
2724 Gateway Dr., 2nd Fl. Conf. Rm.  
Riverside, CA 92507

Fullerton College  
321 E Chapman Ave  
Fullerton, CA 92832

## Agenda

1. Welcome, Call to Order, Roll Call, and Declaration of Quorum
2. Office of Voting Systems Technology Assessment (OVSTA) Update (*NaKesha*)  
Update on voting systems and testing from SOS staff.
3. Outreach and Education Efforts for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Voters (*Jon/Steven*)  
Discussion on American Sign Language and related support.
4. Senate Bill 450 – Voter’s Choice Act Implementation Update (*Courtney*)  
Presentation and discussion on adoption of the Voter’s Choice Act model.
5. Recommendations for best practices, legal compliance, and improved service. (*Fred*)  
Discussion on goals and recommendations, including discussion of
  - Offering accessible voting systems to all in-person voters
  - Accessible voting information on county websites
  - County VAACs that don’t meet
6. Senate Bill 589 Follow Up (*Fred*)  
Discussion and follow-up on law that affects voting rights for people under conservatorship.
7. Subcommittees, Projects, and Working Groups (*Jon*)  
Discussion on establishing and assigning leads for ongoing work, including establishing subcommittees.
8. Committee Chair Applications (*Jon*)  
Discussion on selection of committee chair.
9. Subcommittees, Projects, and Working Groups (*Jon*)  
Discussion on establishing and assigning leads for ongoing work, including establishing subcommittees.
10. Public Comments and Future Agenda Items
11. Adjournment

## Important Notices to the Public:

- This meeting is open to the public and is accessible to the physically disabled.
- In accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, reasonable accommodations are available. Providing accommodation requests at least five (5) business days before the meeting will help to ensure availability of the requested accommodation.
- Any person who needs a disability-related accommodation or modification in order to participate in the meeting, or any person wanting to subscribe to future meeting notices and agendas, may make a request by contacting Jonathan Ivy at (916) 695-1581, by emailing [VAAC@sos.ca.gov](mailto:VAAC@sos.ca.gov) or [jonathan.ivy@sos.ca.gov](mailto:jonathan.ivy@sos.ca.gov), or by sending a written request to the Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee, 1500 11th Street, 5th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814.
- Discussion and action may be taken on any item on the agenda. The time and order of agenda items are subject to change at the discretion of the committee and may be taken out of order.
- Persons interested in addressing the committee on any agenda item will be given an opportunity to speak. The committee may limit the time for each individual speaker.
- The committee may not discuss or take action on any matter raised that is not included on this agenda, except to decide whether to place the matter on the agenda of a future meeting. (Government Code sections 11125, 11125.7(a).)



**ALEX PADILLA** | SECRETARY OF STATE | STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
ELECTIONS DIVISION

1500 11<sup>th</sup> Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814 | **Tel** 916.657.2166 | **Fax** 916.653.3214 | [www.sos.ca.gov](http://www.sos.ca.gov)

June 14, 2017

Voting Accessibility  
Advisory Committee  
(VAAC)

May 24, 2017, Meeting

**Minutes**

**1. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Jon Ivy, Voter Access Coordinator, Elections Division, Secretary of State**

Roll was called, a quorum was declared, and the following participants were marked as present:

Committee Members

- Tim McNamara
- Gail Pellerin
- Sarah Funes
- Fred Nisen
- Courtney Bailey
- Janet Bell
- Lindsie Verma
- Jacob Lesner-Buxton (Santa Barbara)
- Kimberly Ocampo (Fullerton)
- Larry Smith (Riverside)

Secretary of State Staff

- Susan Lapsley  
Deputy Secretary of State, HAVA Director and Counsel
- Joanna Southard  
Assistant Chief, Elections Division
- Jon Ivy  
Voter Access Coordinator, Elections Division
- Stephen Carda  
Voter Outreach Coordinator, Elections Division

Members of the Public and County Elections Office Staff

- Monterey County
- Marin County
- Los Angeles County

- San Francisco County
- Santa Clara County
- Riverside County
- Mario Janesin, Community Access Center, Riverside
- Ardis Bazyn, California Council of the Blind
- Trinity County
- San Mateo County
- San Luis Obispo County
- Orange County
- Francis Lau, Self Advocate, State Council on Developmental Disabilities
- Margaret Johnson, Disability Rights CA

## **2. Oath of Office**

Jon Ivy welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the VAAC in 2017. Gail Pellerin led the committee in the oath of office.

## **3. Introductions**

Jon Ivy introduced himself, and announced that he would be leaving his position at the Secretary of State in August (going to law school), but that he was available to talk in the meantime with any committee members or county elections officials on issues related to accessibility and elections and on anything they want to bring to the attention of the Secretary of State's Office.

VAAC members introduced themselves to each other and to the public.

### ***Tim McNamara:***

“Hi I’m Tim McNamara from Los Angeles County. I’m the assistant registrar over election operations. I’ve been on this VAAC for about 10 years, informally, before it became formal in law. And I’m glad to be back for the formal committee. So, after being on this for 10 years, you really learn to become very passionate about things that you weren’t before – so I want to continue to help to make sure there’s full access to voting machines and elections. We’ll talk more details as we go along.”

### ***Larry Smith:***

“Good afternoon, my name is Larry Smith. I work for the Riverside County Registrar of Voters Office. I’ve been on the VAAC for several years now and I’m thrilled to be back on

the VAAC. I also represent the local VAAC here as a co-chair for riverside county. We're fairly new at it but we're doing a pretty good job, I think. We have several representatives in here on the phone. I really want to continue to learn what the VAAC's all about, and represent those folks with disabilities, making sure we have full access to the elections process and the voting process. Ready to get started on looking at vote centers and other future accessibility needs, including ensuring our websites are accessible."

***Courtney Bailey:***

"Hi, I'm Courtney Bailey. I'm an elections manager for Sacramento County voter registration and elections. I'm the manager over precinct operations, which deals with polling places, our voters, and our voting equipment. I am thrilled to be a part of the VAAC for the first time. I do work with our local Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee and our County Disability Advisory Committee, on a regular basis. So I am happy to share some of these things with them. Similar to Larry, I'm looking forward to being a part of this process, especially with all the changes in elections, including the possibility of Sacramento County moving to Vote Centers. ...

"Another goal is to have transparency of the information that we collect. We spend a lot of time and effort collecting data, a lot of which has been led by Jaime Young, Santa-Cruz and now Los Angeles. She was so open with her information and really taught me so much about how to be open the process. We started in June with our polling place lookup tool to also include data from our accessibility survey... Our goal is to make sure all the information about accessibility that we have is out to the people who can use it or need it."

***Gail Pellerin:***

"My name's Gail Pellerin, and I'm the County Clerk/Registrar of Voters in Santa Cruz County, and I've been in that position for a long time now, since 1993, and I've certainly been a part of the VAAC since its inception back in 2006... or maybe before that. A long time working here, and with accessibility issues, and I certainly wouldn't be here without Jaime Young. Jaime Young is really a leader in our county at identifying barriers, architectural barriers and barriers to the

voting process. We've been working with the Secretary of State and with counties throughout the state of California to make sure we're all on the same page moving forward to make sure our polling sites are accessible and our voting materials are accessible. We've been doing a lot of work recently with the center for civic design and making sure our voter guides are posted online and are also accessible. "We've been learning a lot about making online documents accessible - still a lot of room for improvement in that area. And it's been an honor to work Fred as well on accessibility issues, and Margret behind us, and Tim has also been a leader on California Association of Clerks and Elections Officials (CACEO), serving on our committee on Voters with Specific Needs. So, these are definitely priority issues, and I'm very passionate about making sure everyone has access to voting; after all, we're all only temporarily able-bodied. I want to make sure voting is accessible to everyone."

***Jacob Lesner-Buxton:***

"Good afternoon by name is Jacob Lesner-Buxton. I've been on the VAAC for around 3 years. I'm from Santa Barbara. I'm a community organizer with the independent living center in Santa Barbara County working to help with voting accessibility. Thank you."

***Fred Nisen:***

"This is Fred. I'm with Disability Rights California. I'm a supervising attorney of our Voting Rights Unit. I'm also on the VAAC in 6 counties in the bay area. Accessible voting systems, voter registration. We've been working a lot lately with counties on the vote centers getting ready for 2018 among other issues, including voting rights for people under conservatorship."

***Kimberly Ocampo:***

"Hi, I'm Kimberly Ocampo. I'm a student at Fullerton College. This is my first time on the VAAC. And I've always really believed in the principles this country was founded on. I couldn't wait to turn 18 so I could vote, and I think it's something that definitely needs more attention. And I want it accessible to as many citizens as possible, and so, here I am."



**Jan Bell:**

“Hi, my name is Jan Bell, and I'm a retired citizen activist. I pride myself, I retired in 2012, and instead of sipping lattes, I thought I'd get involved in things. I was interested, this is my first time applying for something like this, to be on the VAAC, for three reasons. One, I'm from a rural county, which has special challenges with access. I also, in 2010, had a very bad accident and spent over a year recovering from surgery and physical therapy, and I'm thrilled to be able to walk through the door today, and so it's made me very sensitive to access issues. And the third reason is that I'm a high-tech person. I worked in high-tech for over 20 years, and I'm always happy to see when technology can help.”

**Lindsie Verma:**

“Hi, I'm Lindsie Verma, and I'm from Redwood City. It's my first time on the VAAC. I myself am physically disabled, and I also worked for a number of years for bookshare in Palo Alto, making text accessible to people with print disabilities. So I would like to bring and make use of that experience.”

**Sarah Funes:**

“Hi, this is Sarah Funes from San Mateo County. I'm currently a student at UC Berkeley. This is my first semester. I've been a vote everywhere ambassador with the Andrew Goodman Foundation. In addition, starting in 2010, I've worked 5 elections in San Mateo County as a pollworker. I'm very, very adamant about having people with disabilities come out to vote and also to recruit disabled people to be pollworkers. Who better to show that it's possible to vote and be an advocate than those that themselves are disabled and working in their community.”

#### **4. Bagley-Keene Open Meeting act**

Jon went over with the committee the basic rules of the act as it pertains to the VAAC members and meetings. The main things he covered were the 10-day agenda deadline, the requirement that members only communicate as a group during a public meeting and to watch out for chain emails, and that only items on the agenda can be discussed at a meeting.

## 5. Roles and Responsibilities

Jon led the discussion on roles and responsibilities by going over the law establishing the VAAC, [Elections Code section 2053](#).

Sarah Funes asked about if as a committee, the VAAC can talk about pollworkers, what they need, especially as far as to talk about disabled pollworkers and their needs and the issues they may face as pollworkers. She suggested there might be opportunity for improvements in providing equipment and supplies.

Gail commented to caution that every county has a different system, and so there's different needs – I think those issues are definitely appropriate for your local VAAC – and I'm sure we'd like to hear about them here on a broader level – best practices. I'd love, on my local VAAC, to hear things like that.

Jan Bell asked about vote-by-mail voting, stating it's her preferred method, and she's interested in talking about the balance between vote-by-mail and precinct voting, and how to best promote vote-by-mail.

Gail brought up the Voter's Choice Act, and talked a little about its features, including the requirement for a Remote Accessible Vote By Mail Ballot. She mentions HAVA requirements regarding accessible voting machines, and talked about how Santa Cruz County offers every voter a choice between paper and touchscreen voting. Where some counties may be three times as large as Santa Cruz, and get a tenth of the votes on an accessible machine, there might be opportunities to better deploy and make use of the machines. She says that in many ways it's like we've put a "poison sticker" on the machines that keep people away.

Sarah Funes relayed a personal story about voting by mail while absentee out of state, and relayed a nervousness about receiving and returning the ballot in time – especially with the hassle of pulling apart the ballot to scan it with her assistive device. She's interested in a way for voting by mail to be more accessible – to having an accessible format.

Fred chimed in, "That will be addressed with the Remote Accessible Vote-by-Mail. You will be able to use whatever technology you have on your computer. You will get your ballot in whatever way that you can download it - whatever way that ends up being? We don't know yet." He suggested that we make accessible vote by mail updates a regular agenda item to be able to discuss progress. And also to talk about the "poison sticker" on accessible voting systems. "but in all seriousness, that is an issue I want to raise for the future, that maybe we can get a recommendation from the Secretary of State that every voter should get an option of how they should vote - at the polling place, vote center, or whatever is available."

Jon Ivy commented that the committee will have the opportunity to participate in discussions on these topics related to accessible machines and accessible vote by mail.

Jan commented that she thinks that the improvements should be available to everyone - she wants citizens to be able to vote with ease - that if we can make something available to disabled voters, why not make it available to everyone? "The millennials aren't voting in the numbers they should, and it's mainly because they're busy and they live on this (holds up smartphone). ... I know there were issues and concerns with voting machines, but you all are going to have reign me in, because I get excited about technology because I think it helps with so many issues."

Tim recommended that the Secretary of State's OVSTA testing could come in and give updates on the progress with systems. Tim also asked for a legislative update to be a part of the agenda, mentioning that there are specific bills out there right now.

Sarah Funes, pointing out that we now have pre-registration of voters starting at 16, suggested that committee have a focus on reaching millennial voters. She also echoed calls to reduce paper and better use of technology.

Margaret Johnson suggested possibly setting up a subcommittee for young voters. She also stressed the importance to keep in mind polling place voters and historical reasons for people wanting to show up to the poll sites and "be seen voting."

## **6. Current Events**

Jon started the discussion on current events by bringing up major changes to election procedures under the Voter's Choice Act.

Courtney Bailey spoke a bit about Sacramento's plans for switching to the votecenter model under SB 450.

Tim talked about LA County planning to move forward under SB 450 in 2020.

Fred pointed out that only 3-4 of the 14 counties that could move forward in 2018 are definitely not going forward.

Lindsie asked about the differences between a polling place and a vote center, and Tim and Gail gave a brief explanation on some of the differences as far as number of sites, days of operation, and services available at votecenters as opposed to polling places.

Tim suggested one of the counties should do a presentation at the next meeting to talk about the law change and give a progress up date. Courtney from Sacramento volunteered.

Sarah talked about support for all-mail elections, and that she still had reservations – she likes the community polling place, and the idea of going and being seen voting in your community.

Margaret recommended that in the future, there should be an update from the SB 450 taskforce that meets. She also talked about some of the concerns that were talked about and are still talked about regarding accessibility under the Voter's Choice Act model.

Tim brought up that there will be opportunities for public engagement in counties adopting SB 450, and that everyone interested should participate.

Fred brought up his membership on the VAACs and on the steering committee for FoCE's Voters Choice California organization, and offered information to those interested in participating.

Jan brought up voters in Placer County being worried about votes "actually counting" and fears over provisional voting.

Gail brought up plain language and the large efforts that have been made to improve the readability of elections materials by the state and several counties.

Margaret brought up the need for deaf access – especially American Sign Language support and materials.

Lindsie brought up digital books and accessible design for digital content – and is interested in setting up a subcommittee specifically for the topic.

Tim volunteered the team from LA County's voting system project to come talk about their efforts.

Gail and Tim brought up AB 668 – Bond Measure for enabling counties to purchase new voting equipment, and Tim thinks the VAAC should weigh in on the effort and why it may be necessary. Gail is currently a part of a group working on an election cost project, and thinks it will be a big topic over the next year.

## **7. Public Comments and Future Agenda Items**

Ardis Bazyn commented: I just wanted to make sure that we have blindness-specific things touched on. For agenda items, I want to make sure that community is represented in subcommittees as well.

Gail encouraged everyone to read the letter to the VAAC that was included with the agenda from the ACLU and Disability Rights California regarding Nation Voter Registration Act (NVRA) compliance.

Steven Carda talked about efforts to improve on NVRA compliance, and specifically on opportunities for better ASL support. He also spoke of agreements with colleges and universities in California, and of efforts towards reaching millennials.

Fred asked for a follow up on reviewing how November's election went, and about the accessibility survey conducted by the Secretary of State.

Francis Lau emphasized direct messaging to people with disabilities to encourage them to vote, and to be made aware of all the improvements to accessibility in elections.

The committee discussed meeting times and dates. Settled on 2-hour meetings. And the next meeting set for July 19. The committee also discussed a chair position for the committee, and will plan to select one at the next meeting.

## **8. The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.**

### **Action Items**

Jon:

- Coordinate logistics for next meeting for July 19, at 1:00pm.
- Solicit applications for chair/cochair from committee members
- Prepare presentation on last year's post-elect surveys
- Work with members to confirm future meeting dates/times

Future Agenda Item Suggestions:

- Legislative Update
- AB 688 and Election Financing
- SB 450 Implementation Progress Update
- OVSTA Update
- Presentation from Sacramento County re: SB 450
- Presentation from LA County re: voting system project
- November 2016 Election Review
- Setting up subcommittees to address specific topics
- Chair/Co-Chair Selection